# 46

\*\*CHAPTER START\*\*  
  
<h1>Solo Leveling - Chapter 46</h1>  
  
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<p>Chapter 46</p>  
<p>\*Gulp\*, Jin-Woo’s Adam’s apple bobbed.</p>  
<p>Not knowing what kind of quest would pop up was indeed a frightening thought.</p>  
<p>But his anticipation was even greater.</p>  
<p>While searching for a suitable place, he had occasionally looked up information about job changes on his phone.</p>  
<p>-New skills.</p>  
<p>-Growth benefits.</p>  
<p>-Exclusive weapons for the job.</p>  
<p>-Linked quests.</p>  
<p>...And so on.</p>  
<p>Though it was all game-related, it was widely accepted that job changes came with many rewards.</p>  
<p>‘My job change level was 40, after all.’</p>  
<p>Of course, not everything was positive.</p>  
<p>He had also come across ominous posts.</p>  
<p>-I’m struggling because I chose the wrong job.</p>  
<p>-If I had known this would happen, I would’ve picked a different class, dammit.</p>  
<p>-A momentary mistake in choice made me quit the game I loved and return to real life.</p>  
<p>-Should I just delete this character?</p>  
<p>...Well, that was all just game talk.</p>  
<p>Besides, there was no need to worry. Up until now, he had almost exclusively used daggers. All the skills he had acquired were assassin-type.</p>  
<p>‘Dagger skills and stealth, things like that.’</p>  
<p>On top of that, he had focused his stat points on agility and strength, making it hard to imagine any job other than the assassin class.</p>  
<p>Thinking of that, Jin-Woo summoned the dagger ‘Kasaka’s Venom Fang’ from his inventory.</p>  
<p>\*Swoosh\*.</p>  
<p>The comfortable grip in his hand.</p>  
<p>‘This feels right for me.’</p>  
<p>He nodded involuntarily.</p>  
<p>With the dagger in hand, Jin-Woo’s gaze shifted to the message floating in the air.</p>  
<p>‘Alright, then...’</p>  
<p>Having prepared himself for any unexpected situations, Jin-Woo made up his mind and responded to the message.</p>  
<p>[Will you accept the Job Change Quest?] (Y/N)</p>  
<p>‘Accept.’</p>  
<p>As soon as he decided to accept the quest, a message popped up.</p>  
<p>\*Ding\*.</p>  
<p>[You have accepted the Job Change Quest.]</p>  
<p>[A dungeon is being generated for the Job Change Quest.]</p>  
<p>‘Generating a dungeon...?’</p>  
<p>Before he could even process the message, the change happened in an instant.</p>  
<p>\*Whoosh\*—</p>  
<p>A black hole appeared before his eyes.</p>  
<p>That was the beginning.</p>  
<p>\*Whoosh, whoosh\*—</p>  
<p>The small hole, initially the size of a bean, quickly grew to the size of a coin, then a volleyball, and soon reached a size large enough for a person to pass through.</p>  
<p>‘What is this...?’</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo’s eyes widened.</p>  
<p>He had expected another message containing the details of the quest after accepting it, but...</p>  
<p>What appeared before his eyes was none other than a Gate.</p>  
<p>‘A Gate is being created...’</p>  
<p>It was no different from the Gates he had seen before.</p>  
<p>Except that it was slightly smaller than the usual ones.</p>  
<p>The system sent a message as if urging him to enter.</p>  
<p>[Enter the dungeon through the Gate.]</p>  
<p>‘Stay calm.’</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo steadied his mind.</p>  
<p>After all, whether he entered through a key or a Gate, the fact that there was a dungeon inside didn’t make much of a difference.</p>  
<p>He was just surprised to see a Gate being artificially created.</p>  
<p>He had entered Gates before, but this was the first time he had seen one being formed.</p>  
<p>As his thoughts reached that point, a sudden question arose.</p>  
<p>‘Wait... Can other Hunters enter this Gate if it’s created like this?’</p>  
<p>But there was no way to test it.</p>  
<p>There were no Hunters nearby to ask for help, and even if he called someone, no Hunter would rush here... or would they?</p>  
<p>For a moment, Yoo Jin-Ho’s face flashed in his mind, but he quickly shook his head.</p>  
<p>‘If something goes wrong, how would I handle the aftermath?’</p>  
<p>At that moment, the message blinked again, as if urging him.</p>  
<p>\*Ding\*.</p>  
<p>[Enter the dungeon through the Gate.]</p>  
<p>The mechanical sound snapped him back to reality.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo slapped his cheeks with both hands to refocus.</p>  
<p>‘This isn’t the time to be distracted.’</p>  
<p>If he succeeded, he would get the job change and its rewards. If he failed, the consequences were unpredictable.</p>  
<p>Now was the time to concentrate.</p>  
<p>“Hoo—”</p>  
<p>After a short breath, Jin-Woo gripped ‘Kasaka’s Venom Fang’ in a reverse grip and leaped into the Gate.</p>  
<p>\*\*\*</p>  
<p>[You have entered the dungeon.]</p>  
<p>‘Huh?’</p>  
<p>He had entered with full tension, but surprisingly, there was nothing unusual.</p>  
<p>It was just an ordinary cave-type dungeon.</p>  
<p>“It’s the same as usual...?”</p>  
<p>He had been worried that entering a high-rank dungeon might connect him to another world, but thankfully, that wasn’t the case.</p>  
<p>Instead, a peculiar message appeared.</p>  
<p>\*Ding\*.</p>  
<p>[In this location, the use of potions and the shop is prohibited, and your status will not recover even if your level increases.]</p>  
<p>After confirming that there were no signs of magic beasts nearby, Jin-Woo put the dagger back into his inventory and tilted his head.</p>  
<p>‘...This won’t be easy.’</p>  
<p>There were many restrictions, likely because this was a place for the job change.</p>  
<p>Especially the fact that he couldn’t recover his health with potions or level-ups was a big deal.</p>  
<p>‘Damage will accumulate.’</p>  
<p>If he got injured, that would be the end.</p>  
<p>With no way to recover, he had to be cautious with every move.</p>  
<p>‘It’s telling me to stay sharp.’</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo closed the message window.</p>  
<p>Then, as he always did when entering a dungeon, he checked the exit first.</p>  
<p>[You cannot leave until the job change process is complete.]</p>  
<p>As soon as his hand touched the Gate’s surface, a message appeared.</p>  
<p>He tried to push it, but it didn’t budge.</p>  
<p>“...”</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo withdrew his hand.</p>  
<p>‘The entrance is blocked too.’</p>  
<p>Unknown rank, no recovery, no exit.</p>  
<p>This dungeon was extremely risky.</p>  
<p>Even the bravest Hunters wouldn’t stroll through a place like this.</p>  
<p>‘But high risk doesn’t always mean bad.’</p>  
<p>The greater the danger, the greater the reward.</p>  
<p>He had learned that through experience.</p>  
<p>If the restrictions made it difficult to conquer, wasn’t there a great opportunity waiting?</p>  
<p>There was only one way to find out.</p>  
<p>‘I’ll know once I go.’</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo took a step forward.</p>  
<p>As he looked ahead, a long animal passage stretched out before him, seemingly endless.</p>  
<p>There didn’t seem to be any magic beasts nearby.</p>  
<p>‘Wait, since we’re in the system’s domain, should I call them monsters instead of magic beasts?’</p>  
<p>Though both were essentially the same in being creatures.</p>  
<p>Anyway, there was one more difference.</p>  
<p>The cave walls were lined with torches placed in a row.</p>  
<p>‘Torches instead of luminous stones.’</p>  
<p>But torches weren’t the most efficient light source.</p>  
<p>No matter how many were placed, they couldn’t fully illuminate the surroundings.</p>  
<p>Because of that, shadows remained here and there.</p>  
<p>\*Groooow\*—</p>  
<p>The mix of shadows and silence created an even more eerie atmosphere than usual dungeons.</p>  
<p>‘It doesn’t affect my vision, but...’</p>  
<p>It was more of a mood issue.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo pulled out the nearest torch.</p>  
<p>As he held it forward, the area ahead became slightly brighter.</p>  
<p>‘This is definitely better.’</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo smiled in satisfaction.</p>  
<p>After glancing back briefly, Jin-Woo held the torch ahead and slowly moved forward.</p>  
<p>\*\*\*</p>  
<p>How long had he walked?</p>  
<p>After a while, he reached a corner.</p>  
<p>Multiple presences could be felt from beyond the corner.</p>  
<p>‘Here they come.’</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo carefully placed the torch on the ground and stood up.</p>  
<p>\*Swoosh\*.</p>  
<p>In his right hand, the torch was now replaced with a dagger.</p>  
<p>He considered using Stealth to quickly take them out, but remembering the mana it consumed, he decided against it.</p>  
<p>Here, he couldn’t recover lost mana with potions.</p>  
<p>If he carelessly used up his mana, he might not be able to use skills when he really needed them.</p>  
<p>‘...They’re coming this way.’</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo pressed himself against the wall and waited for the enemy to approach from around the corner.</p>  
<p>\*Clank, clank\*.</p>  
<p>With each step the enemy took, the sound of metal echoed loudly.</p>  
<p>The sound grew closer.</p>  
<p>\*Clank, clank\*.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo tilted his head at the unfamiliar noise.</p>  
<p>‘Are they carrying a chain weapon or something?’</p>  
<p>He was curious, but there was no need to rush.</p>  
<p>He would find out soon enough.</p>  
<p>‘5, 4, 3.’</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo gripped the dagger in a reverse grip and held his breath.</p>  
<p>He even made sure no sound escaped.</p>  
<p>‘2, 1.’</p>  
<p>\*Clank, clank\*.</p>  
<p>Finally, the enemy’s shadow appeared.</p>  
<p>‘...0.’</p>  
<p>As the countdown ended, the enemy revealed itself.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo aimed for the side of its neck.</p>  
<p>\*Clang!\*</p>  
<p>The sound of metal clashing.</p>  
<p>The blade didn’t pierce through.</p>  
<p>‘Armor?’</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo’s eyes widened.</p>  
<p>After identifying the ‘enemy,’ Jin-Woo quickly stepped back.</p>  
<p>“A person?”</p>  
<p>It was a knight clad in full armor.</p>  
<p>His face was hidden behind a helmet.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo called out just in case.</p>  
<p>“Hey!”</p>  
<p>But the knight didn’t respond and instead charged toward Jin-Woo.</p>  
<p>\*Thud, thud, thud!\*</p>  
<p>The knight launched a shoulder attack, but Jin-Woo twisted his body lightly to evade it.</p>  
<p>The knight, unable to stop his momentum, ran past Jin-Woo and only managed to stop after a while.</p>  
<p>‘Is it not human?’</p>  
<p>Upon closer inspection, he realized something.</p>  
<p>There was no heartbeat, which should have been present if it were a normal person.</p>  
<p>It didn’t seem human.</p>  
<p>It was a type of monster he had never seen before.</p>  
<p>A monster fully armored from head to toe.</p>  
<p>‘This feels like...’</p>  
<p>It was like fighting a person.</p>  
<p>\*Swoosh!\*</p>  
<p>The knight turned around and drew the sword at his side.</p>  
<p>Just like Jin-Woo, the knight seemed to have no intention of letting him live.</p>  
<p>Having confirmed each other’s hostility, Jin-Woo’s gaze sharpened.</p>  
<p>‘Dash!’</p>  
<p>[Movement speed increased by 40%.]</p>  
<p>Strike first!</p>  
<p>Before the knight could charge, Jin-Woo rushed in first.</p>  
<p>\*Whoosh!\*</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo dodged the knight’s hastily swung longsword and stabbed the armor in various places with his dagger.</p>  
<p>\*Clang! Clang!\*</p>  
<p>But no damage was dealt.</p>  
<p>‘The armor’s too thick.’</p>  
<p>Not only was it thick, but the surface was also slippery, causing the blade to slide off even when he landed a direct hit.</p>  
<p>At that moment, the knight swung his sword in a wide arc.</p>  
<p>\*Whoosh!\*</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo ducked to avoid it.</p>  
<p>The blade narrowly missed Jin-Woo’s head.</p>  
<p>The knight’s large movements left a big opening.</p>  
<p>Another opportunity!</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo closed in on the knight and put all his strength into the reverse-gripped dagger.</p>  
<p>‘Vital Strike!’</p>  
<p>\*Crunch!\*</p>  
<p>The dagger pierced through the armor.</p>  
<p>‘Did it work?’</p>  
<p>But it seemed to have little effect, as the knight swung his sword downward, regardless of the dagger stuck in his side.</p>  
<p>\*Swoosh!\*</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo leaped backward.</p>  
<p>\*Clang!\*</p>  
<p>The sword struck the stone floor, sending sparks flying.</p>  
<p>“...”</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo took a few steps back and adjusted his stance. His dagger was still embedded in the knight’s side.</p>  
<p>\*Tsk\*.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo clicked his tongue.</p>  
<p>‘He’s not that strong.’</p>  
<p>That was his honest assessment.</p>  
<p>Due to the armor, the knight’s movements were sluggish, and his attack patterns were monotonous.</p>  
<p>However, he had an unusually high resistance to bladed weapons.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo rolled up his sleeves.</p>  
<p>‘I’ve faced enemies before where blades didn’t work because of thick armor.’</p>  
<p>Composure comes from experience.</p>  
<p>The boss monster ‘Blue Venom Fang Kasaka,’ who had shattered a steel sword imbued with magic in one headbutt.</p>  
<p>He had experience subduing that massive serpent.</p>  
<p>‘Compared to Kasaka, this guy is...’</p>  
<p>Perhaps because it was a good memory, a slight smile crept onto Jin-Woo’s lips.</p>  
<p>\*Thud, thud, thud!\*</p>  
<p>The knight, relying on his armor, charged recklessly again.</p>  
<p>‘See? Just as I thought, he’s simple.’</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo easily dodged the knight’s shoulder attack and moved behind him, wrapping his arm around the knight’s neck.</p>  
<p>\*Crack!\*</p>  
<p>Of course, the neck was also protected by armor, so it wouldn’t suffocate him.</p>  
<p>\*Crack, crack!\*</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo’s arm muscles bulged as he exerted strength.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo wasn’t trying to strangle the knight.</p>  
<p>He gritted his teeth and widened his eyes.</p>  
<p>Then.</p>  
<p>\*Crunch!\*</p>  
<p>With a gruesome sound, the helmet was ripped off.</p>  
<p>It was the moment when his strength stat, which had surpassed 100, shone.</p>  
<p>‘Got it!’</p>  
<p>The knight, now headless, collapsed weakly to the ground.</p>  
<p>\*Thud!\*</p>  
<p>[You have defeated the knight.]</p>  
<p>A simple message appeared, signaling the end of the battle.</p>  
<p>A light symbolizing an item flickered from the knight’s armor, but Jin-Woo’s attention was elsewhere.</p>  
<p>‘What? There’s nothing inside?’</p>  
<p>The helmet in his hand was empty.</p>  
<p>Just in case, he checked the armor, but it was also empty inside.</p>  
<p>‘Was I fighting an armor that moved on its own?’</p>  
<p>As he reached that conclusion, two more knights emerged from around the corner.</p>  
<p>They seemed to have noticed the commotion late.</p>  
<p>\*Clank, clank\*.</p>  
<p>Upon spotting Jin-Woo, the knights—or rather, the armors—drew their swords simultaneously, as if they had agreed to do so.</p>  
<p>\*Swoosh\*—</p>  
<p>\*Swoosh\*—</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo tossed the helmet aside and loosened his neck and shoulders.</p>  
<p>He already knew how to fight them.</p>  
<p>‘Is this where it really begins?’</p>  
<p>\*Thud, thud, thud, thud!\*</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo faced the charging knights with a light smile.</p>  
<p>The first step of the dungeon conquest was going smoothly.</p>  
  
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